

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing: 16 December 1999 (16.12.99)	
International application No.: PCT/NL99/00361	Applicant's or agent's file reference: P10548PC00
International filing date: 10 June 1999 (10.06.99)	Priority date: 10 June 1998 (10.06.98)
Applicant: KUZEE, Hendrika, Cornelia et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International preliminary Examining Authority on:

26 October 1999 (26.10.99)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer: J. Zahra Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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REC'D 25 SEP 2000

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P10548PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL99/00361	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/06/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 10/06/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C11D3/22		
Applicant COOPERATIE COSUM U.A. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☒ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 26/10/1999	Date of completion of this report 21.09.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Renoth, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8589 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00361

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-14 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-8 with telefax of 22/06/2000

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-8
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-8
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-8
	No:	Claims	

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00361

2. Citations and explanations

s e separate sheet

VI. Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

s e separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

s e separate sheet

ITEM V

The following documents are mentioned in this report:

D1: WO-A-91 17189

D2: D.L. VERRAEST ET AL.: 'Oxidation and carboxymethylation of sucrose and inulin' ZUCKERIND., vol. 9, 1995, pages 799-803, XP002037421 120, no.

The establishment in view of novelty and inventive step is based on the proviso that the treated textile is a textile raw material and/or textile semimanufactured product as used in the textile processing industry (cf. ITEM VIII).

Novelty, Article 33(2) PCT

D1 and D2 refer to the oxidation of certain polysaccharides, such as inulin, which show good Ca-binding properties. These oxidised polysaccharides can, thus, be used as phosphate substitute (D1) or co-builders (D2) in detergent compositions. Detergents are, in general, used for treating textiles (laundering processes).

The subject-matter of the present application, however, relates to processes carried out in the textile processing industry, where it is usual to treat raw materials and/or semimanufactured products of e.g. cotton and wool. These textile treating processes primarily do not relate to laundering.

The method for removing contaminants from such a textile as defined in independent claim 1 of the present application is not disclosed in the documents of the international search report.

Furthermore, the use of a fructan polycarboxylic acid as a substitute for polyacrylate as defined in independent claim 8 is also not disclosed.

Independent claims 1 and 8 are, thus, considered to be novel.

The dependent claims 2-7 define preferred embodiments of independent claim 1 and they are, therefore, also considered to be novel.

Inventive step, Article 33(3) PCT

According to the present application polyacrylates are conventionally used in this field for treating textiles, in particular to remove contaminants. Polyacrylates, however, are not biodegradable and, thus, rise environmental problems.

The object of the present application, therefore, is to provide a method for treating textile, whereby different kinds of contaminants are removed and whereby the environment is not unacceptably burdened.

This is achieved by using the fructan polycarboxylic acid as defined in independent claim 1 instead of polyacrylates, since the fructan polycarboxylic acid is biodegradable and, thus, environment-friendly.

It is, however, not derivable from the documents D1 and D2 that fructan polycarboxylic acids can be used as a substitute for polyacrylates, i.e. they remove contaminants and show the additional environment-effect.

Independent claims 1 and 8 as well as dependent claims 2-7 are, therefore, considered to involve an inventive step.

ITEM VI

The following document is considered to become relevant in view of novelty (cf. claim 13; page 5, line 3) in the regional examination proceedings:

Pupl. No.: WO-A-98/25972 (D3)
Applic. No.: PCT/NL97/00677
Priority date: 10.12.1996 (NL 1004738)
Filing date: 09.12.1997
Puplic. date: 18.06.1998

ITEM VIII

According to Article 6 PCT, the claims should be clear. The wording of present claim 1, however, allows that laundering processes may be included, which is not intended by the present application.

New Claims

1. A method for removing contaminants from textile, wherein the textile is treated with a fructan polycarboxylic acid which contains on average at least 0.05 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid contains on average between 0.5 and 3 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least 0.05, preferably from 0.2 to 2.0, of every 3 hydroxymethyl(ene) groups of the fructan on which the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based has been converted into a carboxyl group and at least 0.1, preferably from 0.3 to 2.0, of every 3 hydroxyl groups has been converted into a carboxy-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy group.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the hydroxymethyl(ene) groups which have been converted into carboxyl groups and the hydroxyl groups which have been converted into carboxy-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy groups are present in the same molecule.
5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based on inulin or a derivative thereof.
6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the textile is selected from the group of natural kinds of textile, preferably from the group of cotton, linen, jute, silk and wool.
7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the method is part of a washing, boiling-down, bleaching, dyeing or rewashing treatment of textile.
8. Use of a fructan polycarboxylic acid which contains on average at least 0.05 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit as a substitute for a polyacrylate in a washing, boiling-off, bleaching, dyeing or rewashing treatment of textile.

AMENDED SHEET

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

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stand. app

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

NRF 2 10-12-2000

opie 'naar	TERMIN	Nieuwe Parklaan 97 NL-2587 BN The Hague	
		PAYS-BAS 26 SEP. 2000	
	Beantwoord voor	bericht gezonden aan	
	def.	Applicant's or agent's file reference	
MAP	P10548PC00		

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	21.09.2000
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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No. PCT/NL99/00361	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/06/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 10/06/1998
Applicant COOPERATIE COSUM U.A. et al.		

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Christensen, J Tel. +49 89 2399-8052
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ATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00361

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00361

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Independent claims 1 and 8 are, thus, considered to be novel.

The dependent claims 2-7 define preferred embodiments of independent claim 1 and they are, therefore, also considered to be novel.

Inventive step, Article 33(3) PCT

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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/NL99/00361

The object of the present application, therefore, is to provide a method for treating textile, whereby different kinds of contaminants are removed and whereby the environment is not unacceptably burdened.

This is achieved by using the fructan polycarboxylic acid as defined in independent claim 1 instead of polyacrylates, since the fructan polycarboxylic acid is biodegradable and, thus, environment-friendly.

It is, however, not derivable from the documents D1 and D2 that fructan polycarboxylic acids can be used as a substitute for polyacrylates, i.e. they remove contaminants and show the additional environment-effect.

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ITEM VIII

According to Article 6 PCT, the claims should be clear. The wording of present claim 1, however, allows that laundering processes may be included, which is not intended by the present application.

CLAIMS

1. A method for removing contaminants from textile, wherein the textile is treated with a fructan polycarboxylic acid which contains on average at least 0.05 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit.
- 5 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid contains on average between 0.5 and 3 carboxyl groups per monosaccharide unit.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least 0.05, preferably from 0.2 to 2.0, of every 3
- 10 hydroxymethyl(ene) groups of the fructan on which the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based has been converted into a carboxyl group and at least 0.1, preferably from 0.3 to 2.0, of every 3 hydroxyl groups has been converted into a carboxy-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy group.
- 15 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the hydroxymethyl(ene) groups which have been converted into carboxyl groups and the hydroxyl groups which have been converted into carboxy-alkoxy or carboxy-acyloxy groups are present in the same molecule.
- 20 5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the fructan polycarboxylic acid is based on inulin or a derivative thereof.
6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the textile is selected from the group of natural
- 25 kinds of textile, preferably from the group of cotton, linen, jute, silk and wool.
7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the method is part of a washing, boiling-down, bleaching, dyeing or rewashing treatment of textile.

Replaced by ART 32